



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - December 3, 2003

- ***In the West***, precipitation remains confined to the ***interior Northwest***, where winter wheat continues to benefit from recent soil moisture improvements. Elsewhere in the region, including the ***Great Basin***, ***Southwest***, and ***Rocky Mountain States***, the primary concern remains long-term, hydrological drought.
- ***On the Plains***, rain and snow showers are departing ***east-central portions of the region***. The only areas to benefit from recent precipitation were parts of ***eastern Kansas*** and ***northeastern Oklahoma***. Dry weather across the remainder of the ***Plains*** continues to adversely affect the poorly established winter wheat crop.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light rain and snow showers are overspreading ***southern portions of the region***, while cold, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the ***Midwest***. Nevertheless, soggy fields continue to slow final corn harvesting in the ***lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, rain showers are overspreading the ***Delta***, providing beneficial moisture for pastures and winter grains. Meanwhile in the ***southern Atlantic region***, dry weather is promoting final summer crop harvesting.

Outlook: A high-pressure system will maintain cold, dry weather in the ***Northeast*** through Thursday, while a developing winter storm will provide a mixture of rain and snow to the ***Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. By week's end, a strengthening storm system along the ***Mid-Atlantic Coast*** will produce high winds, accompanied by locally heavy coastal rain and inland snow. Farther west, light snow will accompany a cold front across the ***Great Lakes region and upper Midwest***, while high pressure will provide dry weather in the ***Rockies and Southwest***. Elsewhere, showers will return to the ***central and northern Pacific Coast*** in advance of an approaching cold front. The 6-10 day outlook for December 8-12 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and across the ***eastern one-third of the U.S.***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected from the ***Intermountain West eastward to the Plains and upper Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***West*** and across the ***nation's northern tier***, while cooler-than-normal weather is likely in the ***Southeast***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>